

Photo Contest Rules

8th Annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Photo Contest

This contest will determine the image to be used on the 2017 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: The Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Photo Contest (OWLSPC) is open to residents of Ohio who are age 18 or older. Employees of the ODNR and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate. The previous year's winning photographer will not be eligible to enter future OWLSPC contests for two (2) years after winning.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) reserves the right to verify, in its sole judgment, winner eligibility.

Entrants must not submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer or infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person.

WHAT PHOTO TO ENTER: We are looking for images of a heron that is native to Ohio. This would include a great blue heron, green heron, black crowned night heron and yellow crowned night heron. The photo should be a striking representation of the subject and reproduce well on a 2.12 x 1.65-inch stamp.

Contest winners retain rights and ownership to their photos, but grant the DOW permission to use the image on the Legacy Stamp and for the division's educational and conservation work as needed.

Rights to all images submitted remain with the photographer. By entering the contest, individuals grant the Division of Wildlife permission to use those images in the promotion and support of wildlife conservation. (See: **YOUR RIGHTS**)

Digital Alterations: All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified.

Acceptable are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; and cropping.

Not acceptable are photo composites (combination of two or more photos); the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the photo; or the use of artistic digital filters and effects. Examples of artistic filters and effects are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, and others which do not show the scene in its natural way.

HOW TO ENTER: Complete **two** entry forms that include your name, address, telephone number, email address and photo information, and submit with your photo entry in accordance with the instructions below.

All photos must be **color prints**. Entries can be 8x10 or 8x12 in size, and must be securely mounted on 11x14 white foam core that is no more than ¼-inch thick.

Entries can be presented in vertical or horizontal format.

Mail entries to: ODNR Division of Wildlife, Attn. Tim Daniel, 2045 Morse Road, G-1, Columbus, OH 43229.

Each entry must include **two** completed entry forms. The **first form** should be securely attached to the back of the foam core mounting. The **second form** should be included with a non-refundable submission processing fee of \$12 made payable to the **Wildlife Diversity Fund**. Only personal check or money order can be accepted – **NO CASH** please! Cash entries are subject to disqualification.

There is no limit to the number of submissions a contestant can make; however, each submission must be made using separate entry forms and include a separate submission fee of \$12.

Submissions that are made without the proper forms and/or payment will be disqualified and contestants may not be notified.

Contest administrators retain the right to refuse any entry that does not meet specified requirements.

Submitted images will not be returned to the photographer.

The photograph, in its entirety, must be a single work of original material taken by the Contest entrant. By entering the Contest, entrant represents, acknowledges and warrants that the submitted photograph is an original work created solely by the entrant, that the photograph does not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, right of privacy/publicity or intellectual property right of any person or entity, and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the photograph.

Disqualifying factors include: oversized or undersized photo paper and/or foam core backing, omission of two completed entry forms, lack of entry fee, submission prior to or after stated postmark dates (August 8 to August 19).

PHOTO SUBMISSION DATES: The photo contest submission period begins August 8 and ends August 19, 2016. **Only entries postmarked during these dates will be accepted!**

JUDGING: Photographs will be judged on technical excellence, composition and overall impact. All decisions by the judges will be final and binding. Winners will be notified by email or telephone by September 30, 2016.

One entry will be selected as the winning photo to appear on the 2017 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp.

PRIZE: The winner of the contest receives \$500 and will have his or her winning photo featured on the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp. Cash prize is made possible in part by proceeds from photo entry fees. If any entry fees are left over after paying out the cash prize the excess will be deposited into the Wildlife Diversity Fund. The winning photographer will be featured on the division's Wild Ohio television program, in its Wild Ohio Magazine and on its website.

Three honorable mentions will be recognized. The honorable mentions will be announced and featured in press releases, the Wild Ohio magazine and on the division's website.

The DOW reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value in the event the offered prize is unavailable. No substitution or transfer of prizes permitted except as provided herein.

YOUR RIGHTS: Your photographs help support the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, a program that funds wildlife and habitat conservation efforts in Ohio. Thank you for helping native wildlife and plant species through your photography.

You will retain all rights and ownership to any photograph you submit. By submitting a photo/s, you grant the DOW a nonexclusive right in perpetuity, as it relates to wildlife conservation efforts, to:

Feature the images on the DOW's website and social media.

Use the images in the division's publications or presentations, such as newsletters, brochures, fundraising appeals, public service announcements, grant proposals, reports, awards, thank-you cards, displays, mailings and invitations.

Use in connection with the Photo Contest.

Keep the files provided, and to archive the images on CD or in other electronic forms, so that your photos can be used to support our mission and be properly credited.

As conditions of this permission, the DOW shall credit all images with the photographer's full name.

LEGAL CONDITIONS: By entering this competition, you agree to these entry rules and the following legal conditions: participants warrant that his or her entry materials are original, do not infringe on any third party's rights, and that participant has obtained any necessary permissions from any third party if a third party or third party's property appears in the photograph. The DOW reserves the right to disqualify any entry if it finds in its sole discretion that any of the foregoing warranties are not true. Decisions of the DOW shall be final and binding.

By entering, participants release and hold harmless the DOW, its affiliated organizations, and each of their directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives (collectively, the "Companies") from any and all liability for any injuries, loss, claim, action, demand or damage of any kind arising from or related to the OWLSPC, any prize won, any use of the entry materials by the DOW, the warranties participants make, any misuse or malfunction of any prize awarded, participation in any OWLSPC-related activity, or participation in the OWLSPC.

The contest is governed by the laws of the United States and is subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

All federal, state, and local taxes, fees and surcharges on prize packages are the sole responsibility of the winners. Winners may be required to execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility/Release of Liability/Prize Acceptance Form. Return of any prize and/or prize

notification as undeliverable or failure of any entrant to comply with any Official Rules may result in disqualification.

If, for any reason, the OWLSPC is not capable of completion as planned, the DOW reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the OWLSPC.

HOW TO CONTACT US: Questions and inquiries regarding the contest and its rules can be emailed to wildohiostamp@dnr.state.oh.us or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife is not responsible for lost, damaged, late or misdirected photographs.